



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Savannah District

## **News Release**

**Thurmond Project to Celebrate 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2004**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

SAVANNAH, GA. -- The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' J. Strom Thurmond Lake and Dam Project will hold a four-day 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration during April 2004. Originally named Clark Hill Dam when dedicated in 1954, the historic powerhouse and lake that followed, will celebrate 50 stellar years of service to the nation.

Plans are underway for a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at the Thurmond Project the week of April 14-18. The event will be free and open to the public. Special invitations will be extended to dam builders and U. S. Army Corps of Engineers workers who made Thurmond Dam a success throughout the years.

Anniversary organizers are currently attempting to locate former workers to include in this reunion of employees, and any photographs or memorabilia related to the construction or pre-construction from that period to place on display. Any loaned items will be returned to their owners at the conclusion of the celebration. Anyone having information or items to include should contact Park Ranger Jill Davis, event planner, toll free at (800) 533-3478. The Thurmond Project Office is compiling a guest list of contractors and former employees involved in the operation or construction of the dam. These guests will be given special recognition at the kick-off celebration at 10:00 a.m. on April 14.

A sampling of events planned for the celebration include a 5K run, sail boat regatta, 50-mile bicycle race, fishing tournament, organized poker (boat) run on the lake, and water safety programs with two-man mini-boats. Several high school bands will perform during the week-long event. Davis said other exciting events will be announced as they get closer to the actual

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celebration. “We want to save some of the biggest surprises for later,” she said. “You won’t want to miss this!”

Thurmond’s Park Operations Manager Tom Lewis announced that all Corps of Engineers operated day-use parks will be open free of charge on Saturday and Sunday, April 17-18, in gratitude for the public’s support over the past 50 years. Lewis added, “We want as many people as possible to help commemorate the golden anniversary of Thurmond Project, so we’re waiving day-use park fees on these two days in order to get as many visitors out as possible to enjoy the festivities. We also are planning to release 50 specially tagged fish for the event. Any lucky angler who lands one of these 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary tagged fish will be eligible for a special prize.”

Powerhouse tours at Thurmond Dam were suspended in 1999 due to the refurbishment of the seven huge hydropower-generating units and are not scheduled to resume on a regular basis until construction is completed in January 2006. However, during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, limited special tours of the Thurmond powerhouse will be conducted. The tours will offer a rare opportunity to see the interior of the powerhouse as it undergoes an historic transformation.

A website where all information on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will be posted is currently under construction at <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil>

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***Media representatives interested in announcing/promoting the 50<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary celebration should contact Jill Davis or Tom Lewis at the Thurmond Project at (800) 533-3478 or Jeanne Hodge, Savannah District Public Information Officer at (912) 652-5770.***

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